AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-101. (Canceled)

102. (New) A device for treatment of an intervertebral disc wall comprising:
a main body portion,
at least one extension having an axis projecting along a respective reference plane, said reference plane extending substantially laterally from the main body portion;
wherein said at least one extension is constructed such that said axis can flexibly deflect from its respective reference plane, and
at least one fixation element configured to extend at least partially into annular tissue.

103. (New) The device of claim 102, further comprising one or more surgical sutures.

104. (New) The device of claim 103, wherein said sutures are biodegradable.

105. (New) The device of claim 103, wherein said sutures further comprise at least one knot.

106. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said main body portion is shaped to form a compatible fit with at least a portion of the edges of an aperture in an intervertebral disc wall.

107. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said at least one extension is of substantially uniform thickness.

108. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said at least one extension is thicker adjacent to said main body portion than at a location lateral to the main body portion.

109. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said fixation element comprises one or more barbs.

110. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said fixation element comprises one or more tension bands.

111 (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said fixation element comprises one or more staples.

112. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said main body portion and at least one extension are formed as a unitary device.

113. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said main body portion, at least one extension, and said fixation element are formed as a unitary device.

114. (New) The device of claim 102 wherein said device is comprised of one or more biocompatible or bioresorbable materials.

115. (New) The device of claim 114, wherein said device is comprised of a matrix or mesh of biocompatible or bioresorbable fibers.

116. (New) The device of claim 114, wherein said device is comprised of a biocompatible or bioresorbable membrane.

117. (New) The device of claim 114, wherein said device is comprised of a biocompatible or bioresorbable fabric.

118. (New) The device of claim 114, wherein said device comprises a biodegradable substrate.

119. (New) The device of claim 114, wherein said device comprises an expandable polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE).

120. (New) The device of claim 114, wherein said device comprises a polymer material.

121. (New) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises a polymeric sheet.

122. (New) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises a polymeric fabric.

123. (New) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises a polymeric mesh.

124. (New) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises polymeric fibers.

125. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises a collagenous material.

126. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises hygroscopic material.

127. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises materials to facilitate regeneration of disc tissue.

128. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises bioactive silica-based material.

129. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises a growth factor.

130. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein the device is flexibly resilient.

131. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein at least a portion of the device is porous.

132. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein at least a portion of the device is non-porous.

133. (New) The device of claim 102, wherein said at least one extension is reversibly deformable to allow, in use, insertion into an aperture of an intervertebral disc and to subsequently expand conforming said device to the shape of a portion of the inner wall of an annulus.

134. (New) The device of claim 102 further comprising a compressible core element.

135. (New) The device of claim 134, wherein said compressible core comprises a biocompatible or bioresorbable foam.

136. (New) The device of claim 134, wherein said compressible core is reversibly deformable to allow, in use, insertion into an aperture of an intervertebral disc and to subsequently expand conforming said device to the shape of at least a portion of an inner wall of an annulus.

137. (New) The device of claim 102, having a first and a second extension.

138. (New) The device of claim 137, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in reference planes oriented in a range of 0° to 60° to each other when said extensions are undeflected.

139. (New) The device of claim 138, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in the same reference plane when said extensions are undeflected.

140. (New) The device of claim 138, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in reference planes oriented 60° to each other when said extensions are undeflected.

141. (New) A device for treatment of an intervertebral disc wall comprising:
a main body portion,

at least one extension having an axis projecting along a respective reference plane, said reference plane extending substantially laterally from the main body portion;

wherein each of said at least one extensions is constructed such that said axis can flexibly deflect from its respective reference plane, and

at least one receptacle configured to receive a fixation element.

142. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said at least one receptacle comprises a slot.

143. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said at least one receptacle comprises a hole.

144. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said at least one receptacle comprises a mesh or screen.

145. (New) The device of claim 141, further comprising one or more surgical sutures.

146. (New) The device of claim 145, wherein said sutures are biodegradable.

147. (New) The device of claim 145, wherein said sutures further comprise at least one knot.

148. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said main body portion is shaped to form a compatible fit with the edges of at least a portion of an aperture in an intervertebral disc wall.

149. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said at least one extension is of substantially uniform thickness.

150. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said at least one extension is thicker adjacent to said main body portion than at a location lateral to the main body portion.

151. (New) The device of claim 141, further comprising one or more barbs.

152. (New) The device of claim 141, further comprising one or more tension bands.

153. (New) The device of claim 141, further comprising one or more staples.

154. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said main body portion and at least one extension are formed as a unitary device.

155. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said main body portion, at least one extension, and said receptacle are formed as a unitary device.

156. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said device is comprised of one or more biocompatible or bioresorbable materials.

157. (New) The device of claim 156, wherein said device is comprised of a matrix or mesh of biocompatible or bioresorbable fibers.

158. (New) The device of claim 156, wherein said device is comprised of a biocompatible or bioresorbable membrane.

159. (New) The device of claim 156, wherein said device is comprised of a biocompatible or bioresorbable fabric.

160. (New) The device of claim 156, wherein said device comprises a biodegradable substrate.

161. (New) The device of claim 156, wherein said device comprises an expandable polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE).

162. (New) The device of claim 156, wherein said device comprises a polymer material.

163. (New) The device of claim 162, wherein said device comprises a polymeric sheet.

164. (New) The device of claim 162, wherein said device comprises a polymeric fabric.

165. (New) The device of claim 162, wherein said device comprises a polymeric mesh.

166. (New) The device of claim 162, wherein said device comprises polymeric fibers.

167. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said device comprises a collagenous material.

168. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said device comprises hygroscopic material.

169. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said device comprises materials to facilitate regeneration of disc tissue.

170. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said device comprises bioactive silica-based material.

171. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said device comprises a growth factor.

172. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein the device is flexibly resilient.

173. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein at least a portion of the device is porous.

174. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein at least a portion of the device is non-porous.

175. (New) The device of claim 141, wherein said at least one extension is reversibly deformable to allow, in use, insertion into an aperture of an intervertebral disc and to subsequently expand conforming said device to the shape of a portion of the inner wall of an annulus.

176. (New) The device of claim 141, further comprising a compressible core element.

177. (New) The device of claim 176, wherein said compressible core comprises a biocompatible or bioresorbable foam.

178. (New) The device of claim 176, wherein said compressible core is reversibly deformable to allow, in use, insertion into an aperture of an intervertebral disc and to subsequently expand conforming said device to the shape of a portion of the inner wall of an annulus.

179. (New) The device of claim 141, having a first and a second extension.

180. (New) The device of claim 179, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in reference planes oriented in a range of 0° to 60° to each other when said extensions are undeflected.

181. (New) The device of claim 180, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in the same reference plane when said extensions are undeflected.

182. (New) The device of claim 180, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in reference planes oriented 60° to each other when said extensions are undeflected.